



October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission

The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

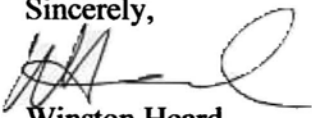
Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the East Athens Development Corporation of Athens, Georgia, I am asking for your quick approval of the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. This merger combines two of America's most respected companies, including BellSouth a long time supporter of our low to moderate income (LMI) community here locally.

As the chief executive of an organization which works to improve the quality of life for LMI-Americans in Athens, I believe the merger has the potential to provide great new benefits. For example, we understand that AT&T and BellSouth have discussed with the Commission precedent-setting merger conditions that are unmatched by any other communications provider. First, the newly merged company will offer \$10 broadband access to *all* residential customers within the new, combined company's service territory. Second, any current AT&T-BellSouth customer using dial-up service will be offered a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem. Third, "stand-alone" DSL will be offered to customers at a competitive rate, thereby no longer requiring customers to also purchase voice service. Most importantly, AT&T and BellSouth have made a commitment to deploy high-speed Internet service to rural areas and lower-income living units. All of these provisions will have a tremendous positive economic impact for LMI Americans.

Please help grow economic opportunities and improve the quality of life of LMI Americans in Athens through affordable broadband services by supporting the AT&T / BellSouth merger. Thank you for your consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,



Winston Heard  
CEO, East Athens Development Corporation -- Athens, Georgia

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary  
BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74

**East Athens Development Corporation, Inc.**

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